

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An optical device comprising a first combination of birefringent wedges with parallel optic axes for dividing an optical input beam into polarized beams ~~and combining polarized beams into an output beam~~, a second combination of birefringent wedges with parallel optic axes for combining polarized beams into an output beam, and a polarization changer disposed between said first combination of birefringent wedges and said second combination of birefringent wedges.

14. (Previously Presented) The optical device of claim 13, further comprising a third combination of birefringent wedges with parallel optic axes disposed between said polarization changer and said second combination of birefringent wedges.

15. (Previously Presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein wedges of at least one combination of birefringent wedges are arranged about at least one reflector or refractor.

16. (Previously Presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein wedges of at least one combination of birefringent wedges are arranged about a polarization changer.

17. (Previously Presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical isolator and at least one polarization changer of said device is a nonreciprocal polarization changer.

18. (Previously Presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical attenuator and at least one polarization changer of said device is a reciprocal polarization changer.

19. (Previously Presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein said device is an optical circulator and at least one polarization changer of said device is a nonreciprocal polarization changer.

20. (Previously Presented) The optical device of claim 13, wherein at least one polarization changer is a reciprocal polarization changer.